

B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing a third party logging proxy server, said method comprising:
assigning ~~obtaining~~ one or more product identifiers to digital works received from one or more providers, each product identifier corresponding to one of the digital works product;
storing the received digital works on a nonvolatile storage device accessible from the third party logging server;
receiving, over a computer network, a product sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital works;
transmitting the requested digital work from the third party logging server to the merchant computer through the computer network; and
~~identifying one of the product identifiers that corresponds to the product sale identifier~~; and
storing a sales record in response to receiving the product sale identifier.
2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least one of the product identifiers from one of the providers;
wherein the storing further includes:
calculating an account balance for the merchant.
3. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:

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receiving a payment from the merchant in response to receiving the product sale identifier, wherein the payment is calculated based on the received royalty rate corresponding to the product sale identifier.

4. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
calculating an account balance for the provider corresponding with the identified product identifier.
5. (Original) The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
transferring funds corresponding to the provider's account balance to the provider; and
modifying the provider's account balance in response to the transferring
6. (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to the merchant's account balance; and
modifying the merchant's account balance in response to receiving the payment.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Original) The method as described in claim 7 further comprising:
receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers corresponding to the digital works; and
~~providing the royalty rates to the merchant.~~

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9. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
registering each provider with the third party logging proxy server prior to the obtaining; and
providing each provider with an access mechanism in response to the registering.
10. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
registering the merchant with the third party logging proxy server prior to the receiving; and
providing the merchant with an access mechanism in response to the registering.
11. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the providers;
searching a data store in response to the inquiry;
preparing a search result in response to the searching; and
returning the search result to the provider.
12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.
13. (Currently amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a network interface connecting the information handling system to a computer network;
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
and

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a logging tool, the logging tool including:
means for assigning ~~obtaining~~ one or more product
identifiers to digital works received from one or more
providers, each product identifier corresponding to
one of the digital works ~~product~~;
means for storing the received digital works on the
nonvolatile storage device;
means for receiving, over the computer network, a product
sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product
sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital
works;
means for transmitting the requested digital work from the
third party logging server to the merchant computer
through the computer network; and
~~means for identifying one of the product identifiers that~~
~~corresponds to the product sale identifier~~; and
means for storing a sales record in response to receiving
the product sale identifier.

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14. (Original) The information handling system as described in
claim 13 further comprising:

means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at
least one of the product identifiers from one of the
provider computers;

wherein the means for storing further includes:

means for calculating an account balance for the
merchant corresponding to the merchant computer.

15. (Original) The information handling system as described in
claim 14 further comprising:

means for receiving a payment from the merchant in response
to receiving the product sale identifier,

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wherein the payment is calculated based on the received royalty rate corresponding to the product sale identifier.

16. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 14 further comprising:
means for calculating an account balance for the provider corresponding with the identified product identifier.
17. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 16 further comprising:
means for transferring funds corresponding to the provider's account balance to the provider; and
means for modifying the provider's account balance in response to the transferring.
18. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 14 further comprising:
means for receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to the merchant's account balance; and
means for modifying the merchant's account balance in response to receiving the payment.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 19 further comprising:
means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers corresponding to the digital works; and
means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.
21. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

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means for registering each provider computer with the third party logging proxy server prior to the means for obtaining; and
means for providing each provider computer with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

22. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

means for registering the merchant computer with the third party logging proxy server prior to the means for receiving; and
means for providing the merchant computer with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

23. (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 13 further comprising:

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means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the provider computers;
means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in response to the inquiry;
means for preparing a search result in response to the searching; and
means for returning the search result to the provider computer.

24. (Currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim 23 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.

25. (Currently amended) A computer program product for providing a third party logging proxy server, said computer program product comprising:

means for assigning ~~obtaining~~ one or more product
identifiers to digital works received from one or more
 providers, each product identifier corresponding to
one of the digital works product;

means for storing the received digital works on the
nonvolatile storage device;

means for receiving, over a computer network, a product
 sale identifier from a merchant computer, the product
sale identifier corresponding with one of the digital
works;

means for transmitting the requested digital work from the
third party logging server to the merchant computer
through the computer network; and

~~means for identifying one of the product identifiers that~~
~~corresponds to the product sale identifier~~; and

means for storing a sales record in response to receiving
 the product sale identifier.

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26. (Original) The computer program product as described in
 claim 25 further comprising:
 means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at
 least one of the product identifiers from one of the
 providers;
- wherein the means for storing further includes:
 means for calculating an account balance for the
 merchant.
27. (Original) The computer program product as described in
 claim 26 further comprising:
 means for receiving a payment from the merchant in response
 to receiving the product sale identifier,

wherein the payment is calculated based on the received royalty rate corresponding to the product sale identifier.

28. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising:
means for calculating an account balance for the provider corresponding with the identified product identifier.
29. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:
means for transferring funds corresponding to the provider's account balance to the provider; and
means for modifying the provider's account balance in response to the transferring.
30. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 26 further comprising:
means for receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to the merchant's account balance; and
means for modifying the merchant's account balance in response to receiving the payment.
31. (Cancelled)
32. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 31 further comprising:
means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers corresponding to the digital works; and
means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.
33. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:

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means for registering each provider with the third party logging proxy server prior to the obtaining; and means for providing each provider with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

34. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:

means for registering the merchant with the third party logging proxy server prior to the receiving; and means for providing the merchant with an access mechanism in response to the registering.

35. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising:

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means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the providers;
means for searching a data store in response to the inquiry;
means for preparing a search result in response to the searching; and
means for returning the search result to the provider.

36. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 35 wherein the search result includes whether one or more merchants are registered with the third party logging proxy server.